

Baseball Gatherings of Last Week Set a High Water Mark for Number of Sensational Purchases and Deals

BIG DEALS FEATURE BASEBALL MEETINGS

Schedules and Player Limits Put Into Shade by Transactions.

PHILLY STRIPPED CLEAN

Athletics and Quakers Will Have to Do Wonders to Draw Patronage.

By SHORTSTOP.

Considerable baseball history was made during the series of meetings and conferences held in this city and Chicago last week, but in spite of all the talk about shorter schedules and reduced player limits the probabilities are that baseball will be run next season pretty much in the same way as it has been conducted in the past.

Schedules of 154 games will be played in each league, though the playing period will be reduced by about ten days. The American League player limit will remain twenty-five and that of the National League twenty-two.

Both of the New York clubs made their presence felt at the two league meetings, and apparently they have successfully fought off retrenchment measures. In the National League the New York club was one of the few which advocated retention of the twenty-two player limit and consequently upheld the old 154 game schedule. In this stand the Giant owners were backed by the influence of President Tamm.

With the American League deciding to retain a twenty-five player limit, it was evident that the National League would not dare to cut down club limits to eighteen.

Col. Ruppert Leads Fight.

Col. Ruppert, president of the Yankees, waged the leading fight in the American League for the retention of the twenty-five player limit, and had the backing of other clubs. The American League as a whole may have preferred a 140 game schedule, but their plans in this direction were blocked by the National League's determination to continue the old schedule. With the two New York clubs using the same park the American League had no other alternative but to surrender gracefully to the National League attitude.

On the whole it was believed that the questions confronting baseball would throw all deals into the shade, yet the reverse was true. No meetings were more prolific of big swaps. The two Philadelphia clubs were practically stranded since last Sunday and professional baseball in that city is now deadlier than Dickens's doornail.

The Philadelphia situation is a curious one. The third city in the country, with a population close to two millions, Philadelphia might be expected to compete with New York, Chicago and Boston for the best talent in the market instead of selling its best men as though the clubs were a pair of minor league clubs.

Philadelphia is a good baseball city as far as interest is concerned, but it has been known as a "cheap ball town."

When the Athletics went into Philadelphia in 1901 the 25 cent bleachers were the great inducement, and when Shibe Park was built in 1909, the first of the modern concrete parks, it was built as a 25 cent park. There were about 8 to 10,000 seats, and the Athletics for a long time have been famous for their cheap seats.

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NATIONAL AND AMERICAN LEAGUE BALL PLAYERS WHO FIGURED IN BIG DEALS LAST WEEK.



Amos Strunk, from Philadelphia (A) to Boston (N)

Grover Cleveland Alexander, from Philadelphia (N) to Chicago (N)

Bill Killstar, from Philadelphia (N) to Chicago (N)

Mike Prendergast, from Chicago (N) to Philadelphia (N)

Van Greff, from Boston (A) to Philadelphia (A)

Johnny Lavah, from St. Louis to Washington (A)

Wally Schang, from Philadelphia (A) to Boston (A)

Chester Thomas, from Boston (A) to Philadelphia (A)

Bert Gallia, from Washington (A) to St. Louis (A)

Joe Bush, from Philadelphia (A) to Boston (A)

Bert Shotton, from St. Louis (A) to Washington (A)

Pilkington Predicts Big Boom in Sports After War

By SPRINTER.

When the world war finally is won and Kaiser Wilhelm and his entourage are put where they no longer can cause any trouble, America will be in for an unprecedented boom in sports. Athletic clubs will spring up like mushrooms throughout the land. Every city, village and hamlet will go in strenuously for sports and the resulting competition will develop the greatest galaxy of champions the world ever has seen. Father Time and the record book will get such a mauling that they scarcely will be recognizable.

That any way sums up the opinion of "Jim" Pilkington, the dean of American sportsmen. No one, perhaps, is better qualified than is Pilkington to venture a prediction on the athletic future of this country. For more than fifty years Mr. Pilkington actively has been interested in amateur sports and pastimes. Champion heavyweight boxer and oarsman half a century ago Jim Pilkington is just as keenly enthusiastic and interested in sport as ever.

"The civil war, or rather the ending of it," remarked Mr. Pilkington recently, gave sport its first impetus here in this country. American athletics dates from the War of the Rebellion. Previously athletic sports practically were unknown.

Retain the Ties.

"When Lee surrendered at Appomattox, peace was declared, the armies on both sides broke up and the boys scattered for their homes they carried with them the fellows to which the war had welded them together in strong bonds of association. Upon our return home we wanted to retain the ties connecting us with our comrades of camp and battlefield. Hence the organization of the countless clubs in every city and village throughout the country.

"After the organizing of the clubs there had to be some form of entertainment or recreation provided. While in the army we had played baseball, had run and jumped against each other and wrestled and boxed. Hence it was only natural that these forms of strenuous athletic sports were encouraged in the clubs after the war.

"Nine out of every ten of the clubs formed after 1865 were some form of other of athletic organizations. Here in New York boat clubs sprang up all along the Hudson and Harlem rivers. Scattered throughout the city were scores of clubs featuring track and field sports. Soon the fellows were banded together in associations for the better control and supervision of sport. The National

Association of Amateur Athletes of America and the Amateur Athletic Union came into existence, and amateur sport was placed on a stable footing. Thus was a amateur sport born in the United States.

"The same thing that took place in 1865 will come at the end of the world war, only on a larger scale. A vastly greater number of men now are in national service than there were in 1865. Athletics also is governmentally encouraged and supervised throughout the land. The army, navy and naval training stations and back of the lines in France as well.

"Through the war practically making the war there has been a score there of young men who never before engaged in sport have become active and enthusiastic in athletics. It is easy to see what this will result in when the great war ends.

"As in 1865, we will see thousands of new clubs springing up throughout the land. The boys will want to have places where they can meet together and keep alive the friendships and associations brought about by the war. Naturally they will want to continue the sports and pastimes they engaged in while in service. Realizing the physical and health benefits accruing from many, many of the former soldiers will want to continue in some form or other of athletic endeavor.

ATHLETES AT BROWN ENLIST IN SERVICE

18 Students, Including Star Gridders, Answered Call in Last Fortnight.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 15.—(Halifax) Gordon, star punter and drop kicker; A. C. Brooks, punting halfback; and E. G. Armstrong, brilliant defensive fullback on Brown's eleven, are among the sixteen students of the college under the arms who have answered the call to the colors the past fortnight.

The belief is general among the college authorities that wholesale enlistments will be recorded among the students eligible for draft before the expiration of the time limit on December 15. The former is in the Ordnance Department, and the latter is in the army.

In addition to the three backfield players Carl Grab, the sterling guard, has joined the colors and is now a member of the Tenth Company, Rhode Island Coast Artillery, Gordon, Brooks and Armstrong will go in for aviation.

"Spike" Staff, a post-graduate student who was a member of the varsity eleven for four years and who captained the Outing Steam Roller the past season, will enlist this week, probably in the navy as a hospital apprentice. R. H. Thayer of the football squad is near the colors of the army, while one in the Ordnance Department, but Lucie's whereabouts are unknown here.

W. A. Murray, 18, one of the best ball players at Brown in recent years, has also enlisted during the past week. The Quartermaster's Corps has claimed him and he has started on his duties. Murray was already a loss to the Brown baseball team, having played with the Washington American League team at the close of the Brown season last summer. He intended to return to college, however, and resume his studies.

Of the other men who have enlisted, three have joined the Coast Artillery, two the Quartermaster's Corps, two the Naval Reserve, while one is in hospital apprentice. Their names and duties follow: F. W. Thomas, 19, Quartermaster's Corps; M. A. Brown, 19, Quartermaster's Corps; Fort Slocum, N. Y.; H. G. Eastman, 19, hospital apprentice; Newport, R. I. M. Farlane, 20, Naval Reserve; S. L. Child, 20, awaiting call to duty; S. W. Richardson, 21, C. A. C.; Fort Wetherill; G. R. Sturtevant, 18, C. A. C.; Fort Wetherill; A. R. Holden, 18, C. A. C.; Fort Wetherill.

PITT ATHLETES HONORED.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Dec. 15.—The annual captaincy elections last week resulted in two of the University of Pittsburgh's most brilliant performers being honored. George McLaren, the great fullback, was unanimously selected as the 1918 gridiron leader and Roy Easterday was given the baseball captaincy. McLaren is a Pittsburgh High School boy and Easterday came from Libon, Ohio, and Easterday has been a member of the team for two years. McLaren has won his letter in football, basketball and track and Easterday has duplicated the feat. Both are popular with the Pitt students. McLaren is president of the junior class.

Rival Promoters Desert Weismantel in His Fight

Refuse to Combine in a Plan to Test Legality of Membership Plan—Fulton's Manager Seeks Bout With Willard—Other Boxing Gossip.

By CROSS COUNTER.

Although the club membership plan won a hard fought legal battle subsequent to the repeal of the Horton law by the Governor, it was not illegal, the present struggle is going against the promoters.

The plain truth is that the membership plan is a dead letter, hanging on the ropes and is likely to be counted out.

So far as the Brooklyn front is concerned Field Marshal Weismantel's forces have been routed and are now withdrawing to their last line of defense.

Weismantel says he has gone as far as he intends to in the court battle and will devote his remaining energy to the accomplishment of a strategic retreat.

The Brooklyn promoter says he is summing up his losses and expects in the morning, warrants with his lunch and ball bonds for dinner is too wearing on the constitution, and he has decided to abstain on a rigid diet in which Queenberry sauce will be eliminated.

Weismantel has borne the brunt of battle in the struggle with the minions of the law, and he is a tired man, weary of the law, and will remain passive until such time as the sport is again legalized.

Divided Councils.

This attitude on the part of Weismantel follows the refusal of the other promoters to attend a meeting called for Wednesday afternoon at the Broadway Sporting Club, at which the question of combined action by the club owners looking to the legal defense of the membership plan was discussed.

Weismantel's plan was for the promoters to raise a fund, engage expert legal counsel and fight the case to a finish.

The other promoters exhibited a disinclination to take such action and remained away from the meeting. Weismantel, therefore, has thrown up his hands and each promoter will have to shift for himself.

Two clubs in Manhattan have been called to the bar of justice, and there is no doubt any others that hold bouts will be dragged to court. In any event, the patrons have no appetite for boxing under the menace of a policeman's club, and not enough members to pay expenses can be induced to attend bouts.

Promoters Short Sighted.

Apparently it would be the part of wisdom for the promoters to remain on a non-boxing basis until the next Legislature convenes and then renew the battle for their rights before the solons.

The situation furnishes additional proof that the boxing managers of the Greater New York continue the tactics that have been pursued for years past, making them easy marks for the opponents of the sport.

Promoters of boxing have been so shortsighted as not to profit by the illuminating example of the baseball managers, whose cohesiveness and keen perception resulted in making their game the leading professional sport of the nation up to the time of our entry into the war.

It is apparently useless to expect boxing promoters to ever control their game so as to meet with general approval, and the only hope for boxing is its regulation under State control.

Grappling Titles.

In an effort to settle the question as to the wrestling championship of the world a writer says:

"I have been told that Frank Gotch began his wonderful career and still lives, they claim the honor goes to Earl Caddock, a farmer boy.

"Across the Missouri River, over in Nebraska, where Farmer Burns is the arbiter of all wrestling opinion, Joe Stecher has the call.

"Stecher, a tough country, meeting all comers and defeated them all until last year, when he was matched to grapple with John Olin, a comparatively unknown wrestler from the State of Ohio, and to go through with the match when his famous scissors failed to send his opponent to the mat.

"Stecher, who still claimed the championship, and it was not until he had Caddock a few months later that his claims were seriously questioned.

"Stecher was a tall, powerful man, held in Omaha. Stecher won a fall and lost one. Then he refused to return to the ring for the final fall. Gene Malady.

BASKETBALL EXPERIMENT.

Boundary Line Expansion to Be Tried in Games This Season.

The joint basketball rules committee, of which Dr. Joseph E. Raycroft is chairman, has decided to make a major change in the basketball rules as published in the latest edition of the Spalding Basketball Guide.

The proposed modification of the playing rules has to do with the court itself. It has been the experience of the committee that a player frequently has been fouled while in or out of bounds by what might be properly termed the technicality of being out of bounds.

His team has worked the ball to its goal. He has shot for goal and he has earned the score, but his foot has touched the line and the goal is not allowed. Often too there is a serious question of doubt in the referee's mind as to whether a player is in or out of bounds on a close play under the basket.

Accordingly the rules committee has decided to extend the end boundary line in the game of basketball, and to make an expansion of two feet at its greatest width, directly back of the basket. Thus the entire backboard is within bounds and on the floor the player has an additional leeway of two feet under the basket.

This change is an experiment. It is one of the things that will be tried in the game of basketball, and it is offered in the spirit of opening up the play still further.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY.

Will Be Played for Benefit of Red Cross on Christmas.

International soccer will be played on Christmas Day, when teams representing America and England will meet at Lenox Oval in the annual series of the New York Football Protective Association. The proceeds will go to the American Red Cross, which is now exhibiting in Scotland, Ireland and the Continent will also take part. Last year Ireland won the international championship by defeating America in the final round.

Thomas Bagnall, president, and Theodore Dillman, president and secretary, respectively of the association, have selected the following two teams for America and England:

America—Ward, goal; Post and Murray, fullbacks; Mevredie, McNell and G. J. Day, halfbacks; Knoch, C. P. at Lenox Oval, New York, on Christmas Day. The game will be played at Lenox Oval in the annual series of the New York Football Protective Association. The proceeds will go to the American Red Cross, which is now exhibiting in Scotland, Ireland and the Continent will also take part. Last year Ireland won the international championship by defeating America in the final round.

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Cubs Should Be Most Feared Team in the West Next Season

The players obtained by Frases of the Red Sox and put into the right line of the whole sale enthusiasts among the Boston stars. The Boston club already has lost its manager, Barry, First Basemen Hobbs and Gainer, Outfielders Duff and Lewis and Chick Shorten, Infielders McNally and Pitcher Shoen, Dutch Leonard also expects to get into the navy.

The acquisition of Alexander and Killefer will probably make the Cubs the most feared team in the West, especially since the Cincinnati club has just lost Shorten and Morrie Rath, expected to play second base, through enlistment. During each of the last three years Alexander has won thirty games or more.

The Cubs have two other great pitchers—Vaughn and the erratic Douglas. Manager Mitchell figures he made just as much of a ten strike in getting Killefer as Alexander. Killefer will be able to bring out Vaughn and Douglas at their best. If Douglas behaves himself next season Mitchell will have three pitching aces who will be hard to beat. Killefer also may help bring Claude Hendrix back to some of the form he displayed with Pittsburgh before he jumped to the Federal League.

Griffith Made Fine Deal.

Col. Ruppert tried to make one big deal and had he put it through it would have been a whopper. Ruppert went high to bring in the big prize to New York, even throwing Capt. Peckinbaugh and Pipp into his offer. It was believed that Peckinbaugh would be one player who would hold on to under all circumstances owing to his value in standing the field.

Despite the fact that the Washington

of a master pitcher. With the strong opposition that is bound to be encountered next season from Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis, with the Giants still a formidable array and Boston strengthened, it looks like a bad future for Moran.

Some have argued that Baker and his associates intended to sell the club, and that they got rid of Alexander and Killefer to split a little before the sale. However, this is a poor time to sell back bats. As Mack has enlisted in the navy, the value of the Phillies has been depreciated \$100,000. From a pennant contender it becomes an almost certain second division team, and from a team which enjoyed the good will of Philadelphia it has become as popular as a pro-ferman.

Despite the fact that Connie Mack has declared several times since selling Collins, Baker, Barry and others that he would not sell another star, he too, fell for the lure of a big price. The sale of the three of the four players that made his club resemble a big league machine—Schang, Bush and Strunk—all three stars. Mack will likely put a club of the calibre of the New England League in the field next season.

There is a little excuse for Mack. His club has been in the cellar three years and just as Mack saw a little light ahead the draft and enlistments spoiled all his plans. He got a few more days of the three of the four players that made his club resemble a big league machine—Schang, Bush and Strunk—all three stars. Mack will likely put a club of the calibre of the New England League in the field next season.

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FORDHAM GRIDDERS ARE AWARDED

12 Players and Manager Dehanty Honored by Athletic Association.

Twelve players and Manager Raymond F. Dehanty received their "Fordham Gridders" trophies at the annual football meeting of the Fordham University Athletic Association. This is a slight decrease in the usual number of recipients, as last year there were thirteen.

The players to receive the "Gridders" are: Capt. Joseph T. Kendrick, Joseph E. Dumore, Matthew T. Golden, Matthew E. McGrath, Eric T. Christensen, Sylvester T. Fitzpatrick, Matthew Brennan, William R. Erwig, Frank Frick, Floyd R. Abbott, Henry P. Hyland and Raymond F. Dehanty.

The players who received the F. U. A. award follow: Philip E. Collett, Jeremiah O'Connor, Joseph J. Mullen, Richard E. Crowley, Vincent E. McDonough, Harold O. Hallinan, Thomas E. Costello, Thomas R. Gilmarin, Walter N. Crovat, John S. Galligan, Joseph T. Pannone, Walter T. McGurk, Patrick E. Fogarty.

The election for football captain will be held tomorrow. Bill Erwig, who has played for two years at halfback, is likely to be selected.

GOLF AT PINEBURST.

Special Dispatch to The Sun.

PINEBURST, N. C., Dec. 15.—First prize in women's putting contest at Pinehurst today was won by Mrs. Brenton Tompkins of Summit, N. J., with a 23. This equaled the best done by the twenty-seven players in the men's contest.

H. Bradford Lewis of Marblehead and C. B. Fowles of Pittsburg tied for the first prize at 25.

HENRY W. AND J. CAPTAIN.

WASHINGTON, Pa., Dec. 15.—Wilbur Henry of Mansfield, Ohio, was elected captain of the Washington and Jefferson College football team